

Message Text

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R 042318Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NWFC, FAO

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP IN ROME: CONSULTATION ON DEPOLITICIZATION OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

REF: ROME 2184 AND ROME 2696

1. AS SEEN FROM HERE 1974 GROUP B INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON WFC MATTERS ARE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM WHAT APPEARS BE SUGGESTION THAT GROUP B SHOULD NOW BE INSTITUTIONALIZED IN ROME TO FUNCTION AS CONTINUING BLOC IN OPPOSITION TO GROUP 77. SUCH A DECISION, IN FACT, APT ENCOURAGE CONFRONTATION.

2. GENEVA GROUP OBVIOUSLY NOT EQUIPPED HANDLE POLITICAL MATTERS BUT IT HAS BEEN USEFUL DEVICE FOR SHARING OF INFORMATION (EVEN ON SOME POLITICAL ISSUES) AND IT HAS BEEN
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ABLE REACH OUT TO BOTH DC AND LDC MEMBERS AS NECESSARY

ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. IT IS, IN FACT, UNDER CONSULTATIVE
LEVEL INSTRUCTION TO DO SO. MOREOVER, CO-CHAIRMANSHIP BY
USG AND UK HAS PROVIDED STRONG ELEMENT OF CONTROL WHICH
OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT BE GUARANTEED WITH GROUP B ATMOSPHERE
AND PROCEDURES, WHICH INCLUDE ROTATION OF CHAIR.

3. IN SHORT SEE NO BASIS FOR NOW FORMALIZING GROUP 0 IN
ROME. DEPENDING ON PARTICULAR ISSUES IN FUTURE FAO OR WFP
MEETINGS BELIEVE WE COULD, ON AD HOC BASIS, EASILY ARRANGE
WIDER DISCUSSION SHOULD THIS BE DESIRED. KISSINGER

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